

**Comment on the proposed conservation of usage of *Narella* Gray, 1870 (Coelenterata, Octocorallia) by designation of a neotype for its type species *Primnoa regularis* Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1860 (Case 3276; see BZN 61: 7–10)**

Manfred Grasshoff

*Senckenberg-Museum, D-60325 Frankfurt, Germany*

I worked on the octocoral family PRIMNOIDAE years ago, and I know the 'Narella-problem'. I welcome the proposals by Cairns & Bayer and am pleased that they took the initiative to apply to the Commission for settling the problem by designating a neotype for the type species of the genus. After much instability in the past we may be glad that the name *Narella* is accepted and everybody working with octocorals knows what *Narella* is. It would be highly undesirable to upset the prevailing usage of this name, which has been used consistently for over half a century, as it would cause a reversion to old, largely unknown names. I fear as a consequence, mainly in field guides and textbooks, that some authors would follow and others would not and new confusions would begin. I approve of the aim of the application and ask the Commission to support the proposals.

**Comment on the proposed conservation of usage of *Thereva* Latreille, 1797 (Insecta, Diptera) by designation of *Musca plebeja* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species of *Thereva***

(Case 3251; see BZN 60: 198–202)

Verner Michelsen

*Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen, Universitetsparken 15, DK-2700 Copenhagen, Denmark*

1. I wish to record my opposition to the proposals by Holston et al. for action under the plenary power relating to the names *Thereva* Latreille, 1797 and *Thereva* Fabricius, 1798. The *Thereva* problem treated by Holston et al. is only the tip of the iceberg. Fabricius, famous for his pioneering elaboration of a 'Systema' for the insects in a series of works from 1775 to his death in 1808, 'borrowed' numerous generic names established by contemporary colleagues and deliberately used them in an entirely different meaning from what was originally intended. The Commission Secretariat holds a complete overview of such incidences in Fabricius's work covering only the Diptera.

2. Holston et al. (see para. 11 of the application) suggested that Fabricius's usage of *Thereva* (for a group of tachinid flies) should be treated as a misapplied use of Latreille's name, which was clearly intended for stiletto flies. They interpreted *Thereva* Fabricius as an unavailable name under Article 52.2 of the Code. A consequence of this is that Herting's (1984) designation of *Conops subcoleopratus* Linnaeus, 1797 as type species of *Thereva* Fabricius, 1798 threatens the long